

# Exeter Quayside

Activities, Food & Drink, Shopping, Events



[www.visitexeter.com](http://www.visitexeter.com)



**Exeter**  
City Council





Butts Ferry

## Welcome

Exeter Quayside is a 10 minute walk or a short bus ride from the city centre. This year-round destination is one of the most interesting and picturesque areas of the city, popular with locals and visitors alike for its fascinating history, interesting architecture, lively events, exciting activities, great shopping and friendly pubs, cafés and restaurants.

The Quayside has changed greatly over the years, and a once industrial landscape has now evolved into a place for leisure and relaxation for all the family.

Activities on offer here include cycling, walking, climbing, water sports, relaxing boat trips, Red Coat Guided Tours and discovering the rich history of the area at the Quay House Visitor Centre.

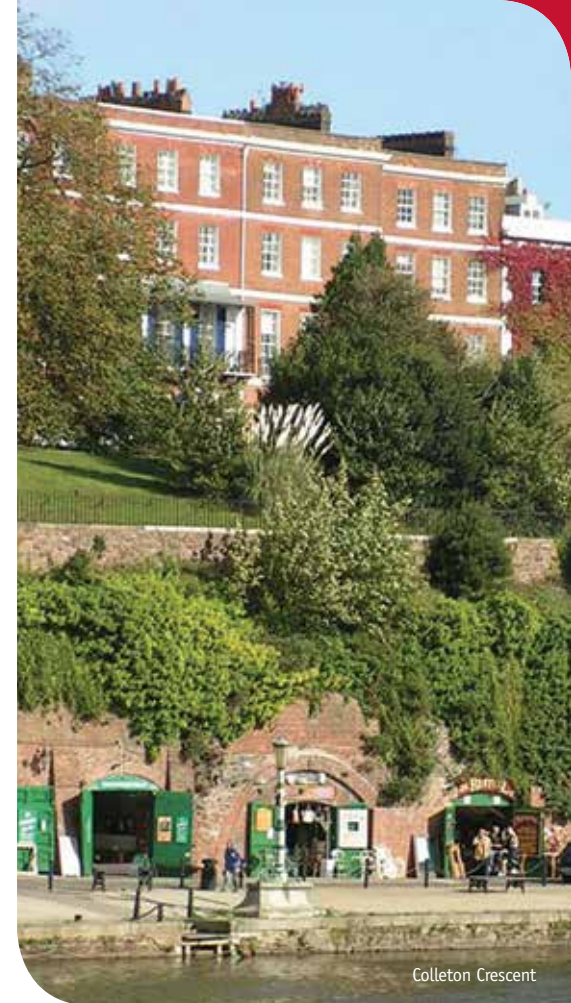
The Quayside is also home to an interesting mix of shops, specialising in arts, crafts, antiques and collectables.

## History

Exeter has had a quay since Roman times. During the 13th and 14th centuries, rival merchants built weirs across the river near Topsham to prevent cargoes reaching Exeter. Between 1564 and 1566 John Trew built the first stretch of the Exeter Canal to enable delivery of cargo closer to the city. The increase in trade led to the construction of the Custom House in 1680.

Exeter's wealth came from the woollen cloth trade which reached its peak in the mid 18th century. Cloth produced in the area was finished around Cricklepit Mill and loaded on to ships at the Quayside to be taken all over the world. Warehouses were built in 1835 to house the cloth and imported goods such as olive oil, wine and salt cod.

The arrival of the railway in 1844 was the beginning of the end for the canal trade as the railway was a more efficient way of transporting goods. Evidence of Brunel's broad gauge railway can be found next to the turntable on the Piazza Terracina.



Colleton Crescent



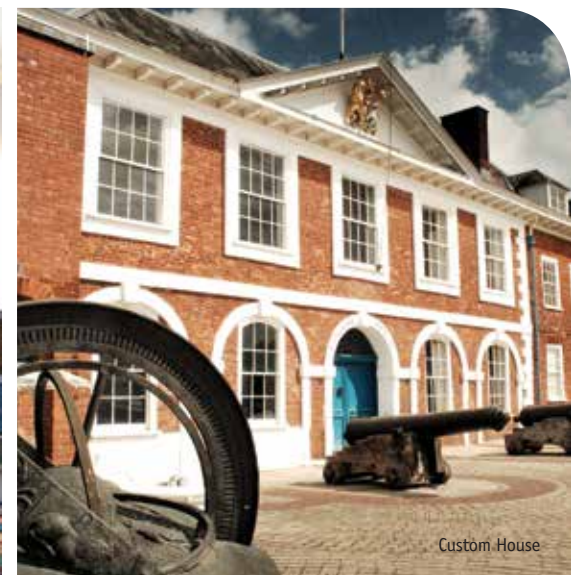
Exeter Cruises



Al fresco dining

1  
**Chandni Chowk**  
in the Custom House

beautiful hand made textiles  
[www.chandnichowk.co.uk](http://www.chandnichowk.co.uk)



Custom House



## Shopping

Exeter Quayside is a great place for shopping. The majority of the shops here are independently owned with an emphasis on unusual and unique quality products – an alternative to the high street. Choose from an eclectic mix including antiques, home furnishings, beautifully crafted jewellery, stylish clothing, local crafts and water sports equipment.

Many of the Quayside's old bonded warehouses have found a new lease of life as craft workshops. Here local artists can be seen making their wares from a variety of materials including wood, glass and metal. Choose from stunning handmade furniture, locally made stoneware and decorative glassware.

Cross the River Exe by Butts Ferry (summer only) to reach more shops, cafés and restaurants located on the canal basin and Piazza Terracina. There has been a ferry crossing here for over a thousand years and Butts Ferry is one of only five floating bridges in the country. From Piazza Terracina, take in the view of the Historic Quayside and the graceful Georgian Colleton Crescent, which is located above the river.

Visit [www.exetertrails.co.uk](http://www.exetertrails.co.uk) and discover five unique trails exploring the city's diverse range of independent shops: 'Food Glorious Food', 'Café Culture', 'Bygones & Boutiques', 'Activities & Hobbies' and 'The Exeter Creativity Trail', each taking in fantastic shops and cafés on Exeter Quayside.



**Eclectique** 2

Open 7 days a week  
handmade furniture  
Cath Kidston  
Emma Bridgewater  
Gifts & Home Furnishings

Cellars 18 & 23, The Quay, EX2 4AP  
[www.eclectique.co.uk](http://www.eclectique.co.uk)

**Exeter's Antiques Centre**  
*and The Riverside Cafe*



open 7 days a week 10am - 5pm  
**01392 493501**  
[www.exeterquayantiques.co.uk](http://www.exeterquayantiques.co.uk) 3



## Food and drink

Whether you fancy brunch, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner, the Quayside and Piazza Terracina offer a great choice of local and international cuisine. Most cafés and restaurants use regional produce wherever possible, so look for local specialties on the menu including freshly caught fish, free-range meats, locally produced wine, fantastic regional cheeses, and of course traditional Devon cream teas.

On warm days, the Quayside takes on a very continental feel with people spilling out of the cafés, bars and restaurants to sit on the cobbled pavements to watch others simply 'messaging about on the river'.

Work up an appetite with a walk, canoe trip, cycle ride or climb, before stopping for a breather at one of the historic riverside pubs. Alternatively stock up on supplies for a riverside picnic before setting out to enjoy lunch by the water.



**The Coffee Cellar** 4

Open from 9am 7 days a week on Exeter Quayside with stunning views and the best Italian coffees and homemade cakes

The Coffee Cellar, Cellar 22, The Quay, EX2 4AP [www.coffeecellar.co.uk](http://www.coffeecellar.co.uk)  
INDEPENDENT · UNIQUE · ECLECTIC · ATMOSPHERIC · WELCOMING

### The Jolly Roger Tea Room



Our tea room prides itself on home baked cakes and scones, with freshly made breakfasts and meals. We import over 100 different teas, come try our flowering or even chocolate teas.



OPEN 7 DAYS  
10AM UNTIL 4.30PM  
PRIVATE PARTIES  
TEA TASTINGS  
AVAILABLE  
MON TO FRI  
AFTER 4PM

TEL. 433313



6 PIAZZA TERRACINA, HAVEN ROAD, EXETER

### The Family Massage Centre



The practise has been established since 1994 and provides a range of massage therapies. Aromatherapy, hopi ear candles and deep tissue massage from 1hr @ £33 to 3hrs @ £90. Gift vouchers available.



OPEN 7 DAYS  
SALE OF:-  
IMPORTED TEAS  
ICECREAMS  
HAND MADE  
JEWELLERY  
MASSAGES  
BY APPOINTMENT

TEL. 203182



7 PIAZZA TERRACINA, HAVEN ROAD, EXETER



## Cycling and walking

The Quayside is an ideal place for a relaxing walk or cycle ride. Whether you fancy a short stroll or a more ambitious bike ride, there are a number of dedicated walking and cycle routes to choose from.

Cycle or walk through the Exeter Riverside Valley Park along miles of towpath and enjoy two great pubs along the way – Double Locks and the Turf. The Valley Park is also home to local nature reserves rich in wildlife.

If you fancy a more challenging trip, why not hire a bike from Saddles & Paddles on the Quayside or Canal View Bike Hire on Piazza Terracina and head towards the coast along the new Exe Estuary Trail. This mainly traffic-free, first-class cycling and walking route passes through beautiful riverside towns and villages steeped in maritime history and rewards cyclists and walkers with excellent views of the estuary and its abundant wildlife.

For more information visit

[www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)

[www.cycledevon.info](http://www.cycledevon.info)



Quayside bike hire

## Cruises and canoeing

**Exeter Cruises** from Quayside to Double Locks. Operating weekends and bank holidays during April, May & September and daily during June, July and August (weather permitting). Board the 'Southern Comfort' and enjoy the relaxing journey along the river and canal to one of Exeter's most scenic pubs.

t: 07984 368442 [www.exetercruises.com](http://www.exetercruises.com)

**The Kingsley** from Countess Wear Swing Bridge to Turf Locks. Operating daily between March to end of September. Approximately 30 minutes each way, with stopping points along the route. Fully covered vessel. Bikes, canoes and dogs welcome. t: 07801 203338/07512 820264

**Stuart Line Cruises** from Exmouth to the Quayside. Once a month between May and September, cruise along the canal to the Quayside to and from the coastal town of Exmouth, offering two miles of sandy beach and exciting water sports. This trip takes around two and a half hours in each direction.

t: 01395 222144 [www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk](http://www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk)

**Exeter Red Coat Guide Canal Trip** This tour includes a brief description of the Historic Quayside and a one-way boat trip to Double Locks with on-board commentary. Return journey is an escorted walk back to the Quayside. Tours run once a week June – August and tickets need to be obtained from the Quay House Visitor Centre on the day of departure. t: 01392 265203 **£3.50pp**

[www.exeter.gov.uk/guidedtours](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/guidedtours)

**Topsham Ferry** For those who walk or cycle to nearby Topsham from Exeter's Quayside, a ferry service operates at the river crossing between The Passage House Inn on Ferry Road and Topsham Lock Cottage. This service operates daily except Tuesdays between 9.30am – 5.30pm April – September and at weekends only October – March. Please note: the River Exe is still tidal up to this point. If the tide is low it is not possible for the ferry to operate. For tide times:

t: 07801 203338/07512 820264.

**Saddles and Paddles** offer canoe and kayak hire. Take to the water in a single, double or family canoe with basic instruction provided. Exploring the canal from the water makes a really fun day out with two pubs on route providing welcome refreshment! Pre-booking advisable.

t: 01392 424241 [www.sadpad.com](http://www.sadpad.com)

**AS Watersports** offer stand up paddleboards, single and double kayaks and canoes for 2hrs or all day hire. The canal is an easy paddle that is perfect for all paddlers including families and novices. t: 01392 219600

[www.aswatersports.co.uk/hire](http://www.aswatersports.co.uk/hire)

**Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre** offers a full range of outdoor adventure activities for young people including canoeing, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, dragon boating, power boating, bell boating and raft building.

t: 01392 434668 [www.haven-banks.co.uk](http://www.haven-banks.co.uk)

## Stuart Line Cruises

01395 222144 | [info@stuartlinecruises.co.uk](mailto:info@stuartlinecruises.co.uk)

[www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk](http://www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk)



Sailing all year, trips include

- Day Trips
- Boat & Train Cruises
- Private Charter
- Exeter Canal Cruises
- River Exe Cruises
- Jurassic Coast Cruises



# Saddles and Paddles

No. 4 Kings Wharf, The Quay,  
Exeter, Devon EX2 4AN

Bike, canoe & kayak  
hire for all ages,  
plus bike sales  
& repairs

Open 9am – 6pm  
inc weekends

Closed Weds Oct - Easter



01392 424241  
twitter.com/sadpadexeter  
www.sadpad.com shop@sadpad.com



## Activities

The Quayside has become an exciting hub for leisure activities of all kinds. The river provides numerous opportunities including canoeing, kayaking, sailing and paddle boarding. Visit AS Watersports for all your paddling needs, or hire a canoe or kayak from Saddles and Paddles, and explore the tranquil waters of the canal, breaking your journey for lunch at one of the pubs along the way.



Exploring by bike

Flat towpaths and clearly marked cycle routes allow cyclists of all abilities to enjoy the beauty of the area on two wheels. Enjoy a leisurely cycle along the river and canal or head towards the coast along the Exe Estuary Trail – a mainly traffic free, first class cycling and walking route linking Exeter to the sea, [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)

The Quay Climbing Centre and Clip 'n Climb provide climbing opportunities for everyone. Offering the South West's largest dedicated indoor climbing wall, the centre breathes new life into the Old Electricity Works, one of Exeter's most identifiable buildings where at over 15 metres at its apex, the atrium provides a majestic place in which to climb.

The adrenaline continues at Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre – the South West's premiere outdoor education and training facility. The centre provides an exciting choice of outdoor and adventurous activities and courses for all ages, conferencing and seminar facilities, a climbing wall, abseiling tower and even an artificial cave system!

With no closed season, the canal is a paradise for anglers. Seasonal fishing can also be enjoyed on the River Exe. Anglers can get a permit from the Exeter City Council River and Canal Office when in possession of an Environment Agency fishing licence t: 01392 274306



Kayak hire

### Clip n Climb Exeter

Quay Climbing Centre  
Haven Road Haven Banks  
Exeter Devon EX2 8AX

W: [www.clipnclimbexeter.co.uk](http://www.clipnclimbexeter.co.uk)

E: [climb@clipnclimbexeter.co.uk](mailto:climb@clipnclimbexeter.co.uk)

T: 01392 422559

clip 'n  
climb  
EXETER

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**'Who dares climbs' at the UK's first Clip n Climb centre. Challenge yourself and your friends on a circuit of themed climbs with inflatable walls, speed races, moving parts and the ultimate test – the Leap of Faith!**

All this and more located at the Quay climbing centre, Devon's largest indoor climbing wall.

Open: **12-10pm Weekdays** and **9am-8pm Saturdays and Sundays**

Price: 4-5yrs **£5** 6-16yrs **£8** 17+ **£12** Off Peak

Price: 4-5yrs **£8** 6-16yrs **£12** 17+ **£17.50** Peak

**Booking in Advance Highly Recommended**

Equipment and instructor included





## Quay House Visitor Centre



Built in 1680, the **Quay House** was formerly used for storing cloth and other goods. Today the history and development of the Quayside is told through colourful displays and a fascinating collection of artefacts.

There is also an opportunity to watch the free audio-visual presentation, *'Exeter – 2,000 years of History'*, which tells the fascinating story of Exeter's often turbulent past from Roman times to the present day.

Several of Exeter's **Red Coat Guided Tours** leave from outside the Quay House Visitor Centre during the summer months. Join the guides on their Canal Trip (June – August), the Exeter Historic Quayside Tour (April – October) or take a tour of the Custom House (April – October). See the notice board outside the Quay House Visitor Centre for the latest tour programme, call **t: 01392 265203** or visit the website [www.exeter.gov.uk/guidedtours](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/guidedtours)



**Exeter Canal & Quay Trust** was established as a charity 30 years ago to preserve and enhance the historic buildings on the Quay and Canal Basin and promote the Quay as a visitor attraction and thriving commercial area. It supports the running costs of the Quay House Visitor Centre.

The **Quay House Visitor Centre** provides essential visitor information, Quayside treasure hunts, an accommodation booking service, plus a gift shop selling local pottery, replica maps, souvenirs and a large range of local books.

**Open:** April – October, daily 10am – 5pm.  
Nov – March, weekends only 11am – 4pm.

**Admission free.**

46 The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN **t: 01392 271611**

**e: [quayhouse@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:quayhouse@exeter.gov.uk)**

**[www.exeter.gov.uk/quayhouse](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/quayhouse)**



Quay House Visitor Centre



Milling day



Wildlife garden



Grey wagtail

## Cricklepit Mill

Home to the headquarters of the Devon Wildlife Trust, this ancient mill has been fully restored with the addition of a new visitor centre.

Learn about the history and wildlife of the mill and find out about the work of Devon Wildlife Trust. Outside visitors can look at the micro hydro turbine and visit the wildlife garden, which for an urban site has an extraordinary wealth of wildlife. There is a guide on hand to answer any questions and a quiz to do when you visit.

Milling days take place on the second Friday of every month between 10am – 12noon and are a great opportunity to see the working mill in action and to buy some stone-ground Cricklepit flour.

Visit Devon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Helpdesk next to Cricklepit, which is run by staff and volunteers who can answer your wildlife queries.

Cricklepit Mill is open all year round with outdoor events and activities for all the family held throughout the summer. During the winter months there is a programme of talks and film shows about the local wildlife and its habitats.

**Open:** Monday – Friday, 9am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 5pm.

**Admission free.** Check the website for news and events.

Devon Wildlife Trust, Cricklepit Mill,  
Commercial Road, Exeter, EX2 4AB

**t: 01392 279244**

**[www.devonwildlifetrust.org/cricklepit-mill](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/cricklepit-mill)**





## Events

The Transit Shed opposite the Quay House Visitor Centre creates the perfect space for a lively calendar of events throughout the year including specialist markets, charity events, live music, historical re-enactments and street theatre.

Visit the Quayside in the summer for the thrills and spills of competitive dragon boat racing; the renowned City of Exeter Regatta and 'Summer Sundays' – a programme of live jazz and entertaining street theatre taking place on Sunday afternoons between mid July and the end of August.

Across the water, the entertainment continues with a programme of events taking place on Piazza Terracina. This open air performance space attracts a huge variety of acts, guaranteed to entertain audiences of all ages.

For a full list of events taking place in Exeter, including those located on the Quayside, scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.visitexeter.com](http://www.visitexeter.com)



## What's nearby?

Just a short walk or bike ride from the Quayside will bring you to the following places:

- **Belle Isle Park** – Exeter's newest park and a popular spot for picnicking and birdwatching.
- **Tenpin bowling** – bowling fun for all the family. 3-4 Haven Banks Retail Park **t:** 0871 873 2450.
- **Riverside Leisure Centre** – includes gym, swimming pool, sports hall, squash courts and a café. Cowick Street **t:** 01392 221771.
- **Haven Banks Retail Park** – Well known brands just a few minutes walk away from the Quayside.
- **Exebridge Retail Park** – shops and restaurant complex only a short walk from the Quayside.




Regatta Day

## Getting to the Quayside

### Public Transport

G bus from the High Street runs hourly Monday – Saturday between 10.15am and 3.15pm, with the return service from the Quay running hourly between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

 Matford Park and Ride service between South Street and Haven Road runs every 10 minutes between 6.30am – 7pm Monday – Friday and 7.40am – 6.45pm on Saturdays. Leave the car behind, come directly from the Matford Park and Ride to Haven Road.

### Car parking

#### Cathedral & Quay car park

Long stay pay and display multi-storey visitors' car park.

**Open:** Monday – Sunday including Bank Holidays. Car park opens at 7am and closes at 10pm.

Disabled parking on Level 4.

Postcode EX1 1DX

\* Please note: the walking route from the Cathedral to Quay car park to the Quayside is steep and cobbled. More level access to the Quayside is available from nearby Haven Banks car park.

#### Haven Banks car park

Long stay pay and display visitors' car park.

**Open:** Monday – Sunday including Bank Holidays. Car park opens at 7am and closes at 8pm. Disabled parking and coach parking available.

Postcode EX2 8DP

**There is disabled only car parking at the bottom of Quay Hill next to the Riverside Café (3 hours max. stay).**



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### Located in the heart of Exeter

Want to learn to climb but not sure where to go or what to do? Come and see us at the South West's largest indoor climbing wall. We can give you the expert help you need as well as a great friendly space to learn in. You'll be up and away in no time!

### Try climbing today

Have a go at climbing under the supervision of our experienced instructors. Our Taster Sessions are great fun for children aged 7+ and for adults too. Just £12.50 for an hour's instruction, including all equipment. For visiting climbers, we offer over 200 climbing routes on walls ranging from 7 to 14 metres, two boulder caves and 5 autobelay! Great fun - whatever the weather!

The Quay Climbing Centre  
Haven Road, Exeter, EX2 8AX **t.** 01392 426 850  
[www.quayclimbingcentre.co.uk](http://www.quayclimbingcentre.co.uk)







Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets offers a wide range of services to help make your visit to Exeter as enjoyable as possible. The centre stocks information on where to visit, activities and events.

Help can be offered with booking accommodation, leaflets, bus/train times, tickets for events, maps, local books and souvenirs.

Tickets can be obtained here for:

- Exeter Corn Exchange
  - Exeter Northcott
  - The Cygnet Theatre (Exeter)
  - Princess Theatre (Torquay)
  - Theatre Royal (Plymouth)
  - Barnfield Theatre (Exeter)
  - Lundy Island
- and events throughout the local area.

**Open:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm and Bank Holidays, 10am – 4pm

### **Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets**

Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1GF

**t:** 01392 665700

**e:** [evit@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:evit@exeter.gov.uk)

**[www.visitexeter.com](http://www.visitexeter.com)**

**Twitter:** Visit\_Exeter

**Facebook:** Visit Exeter

For visitor information on the Quayside, visit the Quay House Visitor Centre:

**Open:** April – October, daily 10am – 5pm.

Nov – March, weekends only 11am – 4pm. Admission free.

46 The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN

**t:** 01392 271611 **e:** [quayhouse@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:quayhouse@exeter.gov.uk)

**[www.exeter.gov.uk/quayhouse](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/quayhouse)**



Photography by: Tony Cobley, Apex, Photography by Max, Cycle Exeter, Philip Vile Photography, Alex Toze, Tony Howell & Stonefree Photography.

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information in this brochure is correct, Exeter City Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies. This document is available in other formats.

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